

Ephesians 2:14–18 *God's Great Faithfulness*

Main idea: Jesus isn't just our Peacemaker. He Himself is our peace. In Him is the nearest nearness to God, which absolutely demands that we be "near" one another as well.

¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Introduction

Herod's temple and the wall of separation that warned that Gentiles who passed by it would have themselves to thank for their imminent death. God had created a wall of separation with the holiness code, "commandments contained in ordinances" (NOT the ten words in stone, in the ark, or therefore their applications to life; but rather, that chain-link fence that kept God's children safely separate in the neighborhood of the world... "spiritual distancing" laws, if you will)... these ordinances were especially summarized in circumcision (cf. v11).

1. He Himself (very emphatic) is our peace with one another. He removes both the separation that we erect, and that God had erected. In fact, neither group is whom they were before; believers a new race, in a new man, the last Adam.
2. He Himself is our peace with God. An enmity that had to be killed to be removed, an enmity that required for the enemy to be killed before the enmity itself could die. And this peace is more than the end of hostility; it is the full blessedness of God in every aspect of our life.
3. Our Peace is also a Preacher (Jesus had preached to the Ephesians; when the ordained servant preaches, Jesus Himself preaches!), who announces a glorious nearness to God. The OT church was "near" because God had separated them to Himself. But it still needed an atonement that actually succeeded. Not only has Jesus done this, but now His Spirit indwells us, and makes us call Him Abba, because He is the Spirit of His Son, with Whom He has united us.

Conclusion

Jesus isn't just our Peacemaker. He Himself is our peace. In Him is the nearest nearness to God, which absolutely demands that we be "near" one another as well.